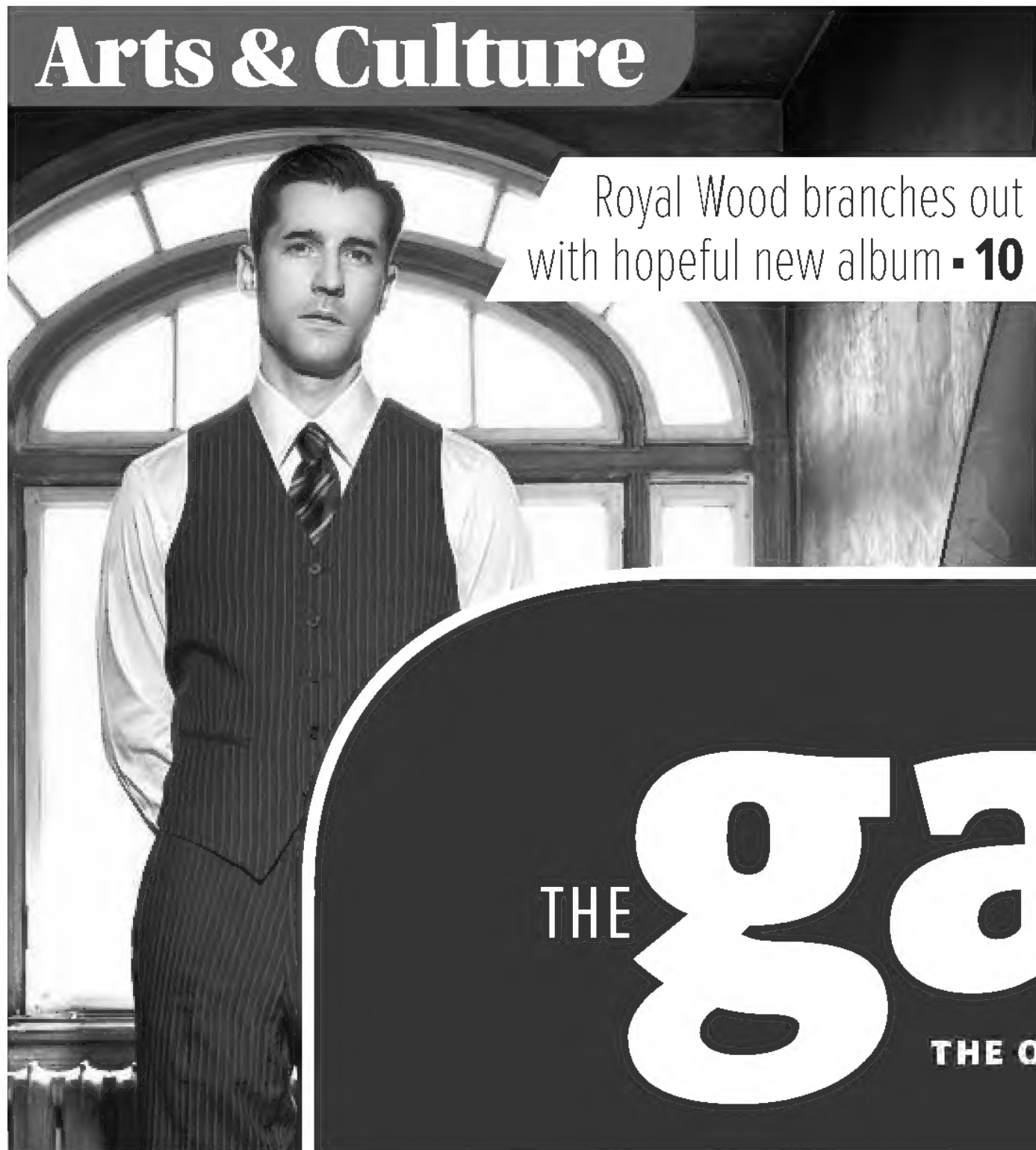


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July 30th, 2012 ■ Summer Issue No. 4 ■ Volume 103

THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Rapid Fire Theatre bids farewell to the Varscona as they relocate to The Citadel

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AMIRALI SHARIFI

RESIDENCE CHANGES

Meeting documents reveal Lister consultations

Extended Lister Management Team minutes contradict “no consultation” claims

April Hudson

NEWS EDITOR ■ @APRIL_HUDSON



DAN MCKECHNIE

A loud outcry from students swept the University of Alberta in the aftermath of the university's decision last week to overhaul Lister Residence.

Last Monday, the university went public with its decision to implement major staffing changes in Lister, as well as restricting alcohol to private rooms. Additionally, three of the four Lister towers will be reserved for first-year and transfer students starting September 2013, and a first-year curriculum will be introduced, leaving only Schäffer for other residents. Lister employees, currently jointly employed by the LHSA and Residence Services, will work solely for Residence Services.

Student groups who have been majorly affected by the changes say they received no word of warning from the university and no consultation regarding the changes. However, the university argues that consultation took place, and documented meetings reveal intense discussions concerning Lister issues.

Eric Martin, the president of the Lister Hall Students' Association (LHSA), said he walked into a meeting with the university shortly before the public announcement of the changes took place, adding that he and his executive team were

‘completely blindsided’ by the news.

“I was informed that I would need to attend a meeting, and my executive was invited, last Friday,” Martin said.

“We were just told that we had 46 employees that may no longer be ours ... they've been given new positions with Residence Services, and essentially should everyone decide to stay with Residence Services, the LHSA now consists of myself and five staff (as employees).”

However, the university says that there has been extensive consultation on the Lister changes with many student groups, including the LHSA and the Students' Union.

“Over many years — 2008 and before — there's been consultation on a lot of these issues,” said Acting Dean of Students Deborah Eerkes.

“Much of the consultation is with the LHSA, (and) the SU has been involved in many, many of those meetings. These are issues that have been discussed over years, and so it's been ... subsequent executives of the SU and the LHSA. So with this particular group, they've just come into office — so you know, here we go with a new round again. But it has been ongoing for years.”

Eerkes clarified that she was speaking as the Acting Dean of Students, and had not been involved in the meetings.

“I think it's just a mistaken

perception that no consultation has taken place,” she said.

“My understanding ... is that consultation has been going on with students, and it seems that things derailed in some January meetings ... which kind of stopped the process, simply because it was stonewalled.”

Documents obtained by *The Gateway* validate Eerkes' statements, showing a number of meetings concerning Lister between the Dean of Students Frank Robinson, Residence Services, and SU and LHSA executives, among other participants.

A meeting on January 24 included both of the current LHSA and SU presidents, and notes that the Dean of Students, Frank Robinson, expressed concerns about the consultation process developed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the LHSA and Residence Services in 2008. According to the meeting's minutes, both parties were given clear outlines on how to proceed with consultation, but have been slow to follow those outlines.

During this meeting, Residence Services clearly expressed its hope to implement a First Year Curriculum in Classic Lister, starting September 2012, which must be approved quickly to begin on time. The LHSA argued that the time frame was too rushed.

PLEASE SEE **LISTER** • PAGE 3

THE gateway

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colophon

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Anony Ta, Jonathan Faerber, Scott Fenwick, Matt Hirji, Amir Ali Sharifi, Ravanne Lawday



PHOTOG NAME

Lyme disease a ticking time bomb in Alberta

Antony Ta

GATEWAY WRITER

Invasive ticks catching a ride on pets and animals moving into Alberta could pose a very real danger to the province, according to a recent study at the University of Alberta.

Despite the widely-held assumption that Alberta is tick-free, the first comprehensive province-wide survey of ticks carried out in more than four decades has shown a diverse tick presence which could be driven by the travel of migratory animals — and traveling pets.

Daniel Fitzgerald, a Masters student in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, has been challenging the idea that Alberta is tick-free through his thesis, which investigates the presence of ticks in Alberta.

In total, Fitzgerald's study discovered 16 species of ticks in the province.

Fitzgerald's work asserts the danger of an increased tick presence is important to acknowledge because some ticks act as vectors for diseases.

One species that Fitzgerald uncovered, *Ixodes scapularis*, is the most common vector for Lyme disease.

"The Lyme disease is actually caused by the infection of a bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*," Fitzgerald said.

He explained this species of tick picks up the bacteria and transmits it to its next host.

His findings also show that ticks have always had a presence in Alberta, although that presence may be diversifying due to out-of-province travel.

"Ever since people started looking for ticks

here in Alberta they've been finding them," he said. "Dogs and pets are very good at bringing ticks into Alberta."

Fitzgerald's study focused on pets that had visited veterinary clinics and had been carrying ticks.

"We asked vet clinics across the province to send in ticks they found on their patients (and) information on the host animals, such as age ... travel history, that kind of thing," Fitzgerald said.

"From that, I was able to piece together a picture of which ticks lived where in Alberta. One interesting thing I found was that one out of three dogs (who had ticks) — the owner didn't even know it was there."

Of the pets from Fitzgerald's data, 60 per cent had left the province, and of those, some travelled as far away as Mexico, Turkey and Hungary.

Some of these pets had not travelled out of Alberta at all.

"A lot of people think they have to go out to a mountain or a campground to acquire a tick but that's not true," Fitzgerald said.

"Samples actually came from within Edmonton and Calgary — sometimes from pets who hadn't even left their backyard."

Fitzgerald doesn't think there is a reason for people to be worried about Lyme disease in Western Canada, but he does believe it is worth considering whether ticks are transitioning from being an invasive species to a domestic species.

"We are under constant pressure of ticks being brought here. But are some of these ticks who are being dropped off actually catching on? I think now we're at the point where we should ask whether they are establishing

here," Fitzgerald said.

"I don't know of any Alberta-acquired Lyme disease infections. Every case has been from out-of-province travel. Based on the numbers from my research, the number isn't zero but the chance is small. This could be something we might need to think about for the future."

Since ticks are a species which lives in the parklands and grasslands, Fitzgerald believes direct assaults against them have failed in areas such as the United States, and would be expensive and ineffective because they are so small. He recommends more efficient means to combat ticks.

■ **"Ever since people started looking for ticks here in Alberta, they've been finding them ... Dogs and pets are very good at bringing ticks into Alberta."**

DANIEL FITZGERALD
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL, LIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES MASTERS STUDENT

"At the larval stage they are the size of a moving freckle — it's like trying to find a grain of sand on a big shaggy dog. It would be a bit of a losing battle to try to remove this tick. It would be better to direct limited resources to focus on education. You can check yourself; you can check your pets," he said.

"It's estimated it takes 24 to 72 hours before the tick can give the bacteria to you. It is possible (to identify them) — you just have to look closely."

Fitzgerald's research was funded by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.



"The locomotives are black. The coal is black. The tracks are black. The night is black. So what am I going to do with color?"

- O. WINSTON LINK

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U of A first in Canada to sign off on Aboriginal initiative

Scott Fenwick
NEWS STAFF ■ @SCOTTFENWICK

Links between the University of Alberta and Canada's Aboriginal community passed a milestone in early July when the university joined with a national group geared towards employment equity.

The U of A became the first Canadian university to become a member of the Aboriginal Human Resource Council (AHRC) Leadership Circle. Its mandate is to advance the full participation of Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

According to Tracy Bear, a special advisor to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) on Aboriginal initiatives, the U of A's relationship with Aboriginal peoples goes back decades — but its AHRC membership formalizes that relationship in a unique way.

"There has always been a relationship between the university and the Aboriginal community on the outside because we've always had Aboriginal scholars on campus," she said.

"They reach out to their communities, and provide knowledge and working relationships."

A major part of the university's AHRC membership will be starting workshops and guiding circles regarding Aboriginal culture and how historical events have affected the community today.

Catherine Anley, an employment equity advisor in the U of A's Human Resource Services, played a large part in getting the university its membership. She said the

education she hopes to provide to university faculty and staff will help bridge cultural divides that influence whether Aboriginal students stay in university.

"In terms of the long term, what I'm hoping to do is create the opportunity for student advisors or supervisors to participate in the workshops, get the knowledge and then think about how they can implement this," she added.

"If you don't have a sense of the historical challenges, the barriers to inclusion or what the experience of an Aboriginal person might look like, how do you have a meaningful conversation with that person? These guiding circles provide the opportunity to become more aware."

Quetzala Carson, a Students' Union councillor for the Faculty of Native Studies, noted that although the university has made progress toward Aboriginal inclusion it still has quite a ways to go. As a Nicaraguan indigenous person, she said a large part of the progress the university can still make lies in continuing to bring Aboriginal culture to campus.

"I believe that Aboriginal nations and Aboriginal culture brings so much strength to the already existing community," she said.

"There are so many strengths that we are missing — so many links in our chain that we are missing that Aboriginal culture can fit in there and can teach us to be a stronger nation as a university and as a country."

Carson added that, in her

experience as a U of A student, she has noticed firsthand how difficult attending the university can be for Aboriginal students. In some cases, they choose not to finish their degree due to the hardships of student life.

"There has always been a relationship between the university and the Aboriginal community on the outside."

TRACY BEAR
SPECIAL ADVISOR ON ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

"It's harder if you come from a rural area for students to stay in university and for students to continue in university because they don't really see a future for themselves in it," she said.

"It's really hard when you go from being taught a completely different way to being taught here. If you come from quite a rural community where you are still being taught by elders, and you come to the U of A where there is no elder in sight, then that's a really harsh reality for you."

Working towards equity is something society has a major responsibility to enable, according to Anley. She explained that it will enable all indigenous peoples in Canada to fully participate in society.

"Historically and in contemporary times, there are barriers, for multiple reasons. And they are significant. This is something that everyone ought to be concerned about."



SU disputes U of A's consultation claims

LISTER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Due to an inability to agree, a second meeting was scheduled the following day, attended by both the former and current LHSA presidents, as well as former SU president Rory Tighe with current President Colten Yamagishi marked down as an absentee.

During this meeting, Robinson extensively asked both Residence Services and the LHSA for their opinions regarding staffing changes and first-year curriculum for Lister. Due to conflicting opinions, Robinson decided he would have another meeting with the Director of Residence Services and then-LHSA President Michael McPhillips.

These were only a few of the many meetings held around the implementation of the first year curriculum and the staffing structure attended by student representatives.

Eerkes said the university has been looking into the reasons why they kept coming to a stalemate with consultation, and realized in that investigation that there were some risks that needed to be handled immediately, having to do with health and safety of students and employees.

"The timing of the changes that we've seen actually surprised all of us," Eerkes explained.

"The intent was to implement over a year and use that year to do all kinds of extra consultation. The message we got from administration was simply we can't continue to take these risks — we need to make some of these changes effective this year."

The SU posted a news release shortly after the changes were announced, which agreed with the LHSA's assertion that no

consultation took place.

"The Students' Union was not consulted on this proposal," it states.

Yamagishi added that the university does not make an effort to find common ground or come to an agreement on issues.

"Any time (the university) brings something up to us, they consider that consultation. If they truly cared about the best interest of students, they need to listen to us," he said.

However, Yamagishi noted that the university has been pushing for changes in Lister for years, although they have never been able to come to an agreement with student groups.

During the January meetings, the university presented a number of possible models for the changes in staffing, but although the student groups involved were consulted frequently, few of the concerns they voiced at the meetings made it through to the final decision.

Originally, Residence Services offered four possible staffing models for Lister, before adding a fifth possibility to accommodate the LHSA's concerns. When the LHSA expressed further concerns, Residence Services noted it seemed like the LHSA continuously tries to hinder all initiatives that Residence Services tries to implement in Lister.

During the meetings, Residence Services also expressed concerns that they were liable for all incidents in Lister Centre, and that the staffing model they wanted was the one employed by most North American universities as well as the other residences at the University of Alberta. A sixth staffing model was then developed, which was more amenable to the LHSA's goals. However, they

still could not reach an agreement.

Although the university has expressed its intention to continue to consult with student groups like the SU and the LHSA over the next year regarding Lister changes, Yamagishi says he does not put much merit in that intention.

"If they haven't done (consultation) up until this point already, I don't see how we can believe that they're going to follow up," he said.

"It's very evident that they've tried to purposefully bypass us in this discussion ... it was made clear to us in the meetings we had (last week) that the reason they didn't ask us about this was because they knew we were going to oppose it."

Yamagishi added that, although according to the university the changes are approved and "set in stone," the SU will be taking a hard-line stance against the university's decisions and actively fighting to get the changes revoked.

"I'm really upset over it — that they would even think that the Students' Union would just roll over and die on this issue," he said.

"The SU will not back down until an agreement is made between all the major stakeholders."

Eerkes said the university wants to maintain the LHSA and has been meeting with them and the SU to find a way to do that.

"We are very aware of all the great things about Lister — there's no effort there to quash those. You know, dodgeball — we love it. The philanthropy, the student engagement, all the ways that students help each other out," Eerkes said.

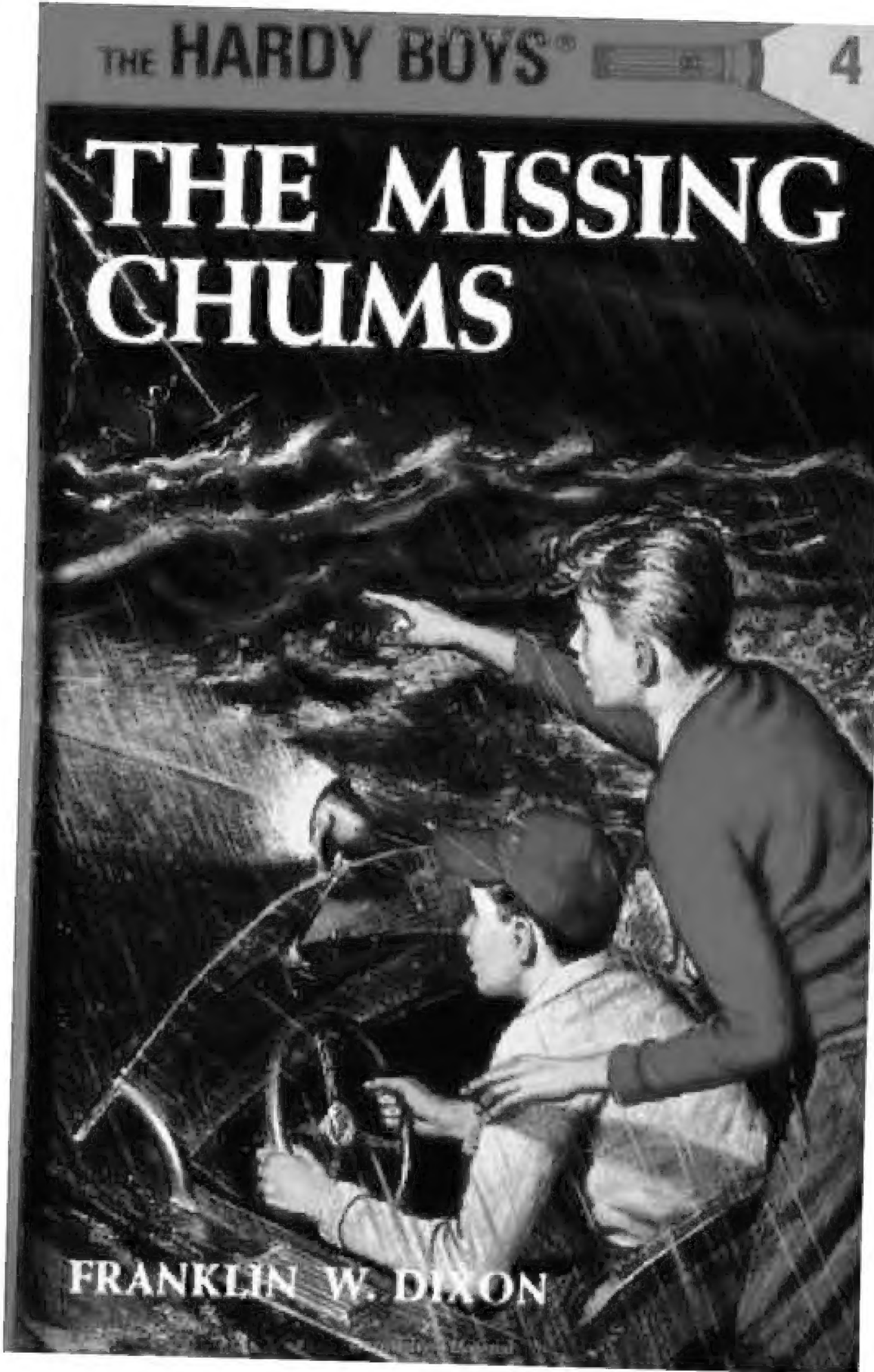
"We're absolutely in favour of keeping that going, and all we're trying to do is ensure that it happens in a safe environment."

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FRIDAYS AT 3 PM
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Study questions bodycheck theory

Andrew Jeffrey
SPORTS EDITOR • @ANDREW_JEFFREY

“Practice makes perfect” has often been the theory many parents apply regarding the introduction of bodychecking to minor hockey — but a new study at the University of Alberta indicates this is not the case.

In Canadian minor hockey, bodychecking is currently introduced at the Pee wee age division to 11 and 12-year-olds. This is often rationalized through the idea that the earlier a player learns to give and take a hit, the fewer injuries that player will sustain — thus leading to the notion that learning to bodycheck at an early age is actually beneficial to children.

But Andrew Harris, a U of A graduate leading a recent study, has shown that there was no significant difference between the number of head and neck injuries and fractures experienced by players who learn bodychecking at different ages.

“It’s not like it’s an illogical theory that if you start training someone earlier, training usually makes someone more proficient at an activity,” Harris’ thesis supervisor Don Voaklander said.

“There’s certainly logic behind it, but on the other hand, maybe it’s something like body contact where there’s a lot of intangibles involved in that activity. Maybe the early training doesn’t make much of a difference.”

Harris added that all previous research on the subject made the same findings as him, but that his results came from using what he felt were more effective methods of studying than past researchers. The study took a group of players and analyzed the number of injuries they incurred from 1997 to 2002, then did the same with another group of players from 2003 to 2010.

The first time period took place when Pee wee hockey was played by 12 and 13-year-olds, while the second period took place after the age change that introduced



SUPPLIED

bodychecking to 11 and 12-year-olds instead. The study also followed the results of the same group of players over a number of years.

“We essentially captured the same people every season. Essentially, you’ve got the vast majority of players are the same people through Atom, Pee wee and Bantam and then the same thing in the second cohort, the same group of people,” Harris said.

The main point Harris hoped to get across with the results of his research is that since it doesn’t make a difference introducing bodychecking at a younger age, there’s no reason to do so.

Counter-arguments to the study wonder if it’s actually hurting children to bodycheck at a younger age, but as injuries naturally come with body contact, Harris sees no reason to continue introducing it.

“This is rec hockey. Unless you’re in one of the top whatever percentages of players who are going on to the NHL, major junior, CIS or NCAA, any hockey after the age of 18 that’s not those levels is no slap-shot and no contact — all (the) rec leagues around Edmonton are no bodychecking. So what does (bodychecking) actually do for us?” Harris said.

“If you introduce bodychecking, you’re going to have injuries. It’s going to happen. It’s just a matter of how many injuries can you prevent by not implementing it, or how many injuries do you cause by implementing it earlier ... So if we want to eliminate fractures from our sports and recreation — these guys aren’t pros, they’re not getting paid, this is recreation for skill development and fun — I’d say it’s probably not worth it.”

news briefs

COMPILED BY **Katelyn Hoffart and Jonathan Faerber**

SYMPOSIUM SHOWCASES RESEARCH

International students taking part in a research internship at the University of Alberta will be displaying their findings on August 1 at this year’s second U of A International Research Poster Symposium.

Researchers from many different parts of the world, including China, Brazil and the USA are part of the event.

The first symposium was held at the university in June, and International Internship Manager Sherilynn Trompetter hopes that these events will continue to be held annually.

“The students have been selected from over 600 applications to participate in our research internship program,” Trompetter said.

“This year, we’re hosting 78 students from a number of different countries (who) are doing research at the University of Alberta.”

The university’s Department of Academic Information and Communication Technologies also held seminars for the 38 researchers to try to make the event successful, focusing on how to develop a poster symposium.

“The research poster symposium

is basically getting them together to discuss what research they did in their labs and what they’ve learned,” said Casey Tran, the head coordinator of the symposiums.

“For many of them, this is the first time that they’ve presented their research in a poster symposium.”

Presentations include a wide variety of topics, such as extracting information from social media and fresh water exchange from the Arctic to the North Atlantic Ocean.

Trompetter hopes that attendees will gain insight into broader research programs that the university offers, and that the experience will give researchers a setting where they can build confidence in presenting research.

“(We want people to) come out and see the potential for future graduates and the energy and excitement for researchers,” she said.

The symposium will be held Wednesday, August 1 from 2-5 p.m. at the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) on the Main Floor PCL Lounge, outside of lecture theatres 1-430 and 1-440.

DISCOVER-E BRINGING SCIENCE TO KIDS

Hordes of blue-shirted children are currently bringing life to the ETL and CCIS buildings as this summer’s science DiscoverE initiative takes off.

The 2000 kids taking part in the initiative are only a small part of a growing number of students show-

ing interest in DiscoverE, which is aimed at educating children across Canada in science, technology and engineering.

The purpose of this, according to DiscoverE Director Mohamed El Daly, is enabling a passion for engineering.

“When we started out in 1993, the program was essentially run by four volunteers ... Today, most of our operating budget still comes from fundraising and the Faculty of Engineering.”

That budget is now \$850,000 dollars, enough for the organization to employ 50 staff during the summer and finance two full-time and six part-time positions on a year-round basis.

“We’re very hands-on,” El Daly said. “We want students to build things that they can take home ... we’re trying to take concepts learned in the classroom and put them into practice.”

El Daly points to DiscoverE’s new nanotechnology workshops as an example of that learning.

El Daly says the camp plans to service 22,000 students on and off campus this upcoming anniversary year.

“We’re always looking to take the next step forward,” he said.

“We’ve been doing that for the past 20 years, and haven’t stopped growing and improving what we do. We’re still innovative; we’re still discovering new things. That’s what we’re all about.”

Opinion

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Volunteer

Opinion meetings Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The goal for Lister change is control

CULTURE GETTING IN THE WAY OF WHAT YOU CONSIDER progress? Destroy it. Because that's what will happen following Residence Services' employee-grab — combined with the September 2013 conversion of the three towers of "Classic Lister" to residences accepting only first-years and transfer students.

A document obtained by *The Gateway* titled "Lister Centre Student Staffing" was sent between employees of Residence Services March 1 this year. While *The Gateway* did not receive records of how this document was considered internally, an examination of this snapshot of the staffing change process is nonetheless elucidating.

Residence Services has sought to alter the staffing model since at least 2008 — when events led to the Memorandum of Understanding. Traditionally when seeking change in Lister, Residence Services has "relied on a Hegelian-based change model," the document asserts. "A force or idea (thesis) encounters resistance (antithesis) and this creates conflict. From that conflict comes a synthesis. What that synthesis looks like depends on force, with the final outcome showing bias towards the idea that originally had the strongest agency."

It goes onto identify the development of the Memorandum of Understanding as a perfect example of this. A consultation is not a negotiation it notes, with the university retaining full power over final decisions. Opposition fades when the more powerful side offers a better deal than the original demand, regardless of the value of the status quo. You know, like how the CoSSS fee was originally supposed to be \$550 per year, but then was dropped to a comparatively more 'acceptable' \$270. Instead of zero. But this model of change results in continued conflict. So pursuing, to borrow a term from the staffing document, the "ideal state" takes time and effort. That's why the proposal contained a new suggestion — bottom-up change. The only problem here is that it would be an insult to the intelligence of every student who bothered to pick the University of Alberta to attend to even contemplate this. It would be nothing more than a suggestion to cynically manipulate students and subvert the most legitimate and democratic mechanism of social change. Attempting to force change from the bottom, as the document freely notes, is not exactly compatible with defined goals. Making the values of students, however subtle your methods, change to line up with your goals to avoid conflict arising from top-down approaches goes against the spirit of bottom-up change. Instead of directly engaging the adults who live in Lister and taking their concerns seriously, this approach would attempt to just change the Lister culture to something more agreeable to Residence Services. Top down from the bottom-up.

What happened to this proposed method is unclear. Certainly, the University's announcement last Monday is much more characteristic of the Hegelian model with all its assertions that these decisions are final — expect to see one or two concessions in the coming weeks. But that any Residence Services staff members came up with this idea in the first place demonstrates an outright refusal to take seriously the current values of Lister's culture. But of course, it's that culture that's the problem. This isn't about creating a "first-year residence," as while some hazy emergency over the summer months may have prompted an immediate change to the alcohol policy, it doesn't require the other changes. And this isn't about implementing a first-year curriculum to foster academic success — the continued acceptance of transfer students betrays that idea. This is about breaking Lister culture and snuffing out its power.

Without returners to welcome newcomers and pass on traditions — and no, an RA employed and chosen by the university is not the same kind of authority as a paid, elected FC — what makes Lister unique will be lost in a few years of turnover. And this destabilization of the consistent culture will help Residence Services implement change more easily in the future. The won't have to worry about whether to go full Hegel or manipulate from the bottom up, because rather than a strong community with the power of 50 years of existence and tradition, it will face a generic residence occupied by scattered, weak communities that last a year at the most — with few ties between them or the past. Like everywhere else on campus. Lister will be pacified, easy to control, but students will be denied what the overwhelming majority of former Listerites would describe as the best and most important part of their university experience.

It also denies us all the one segment of the student body that can actually stand up for itself. As an off-campus student every year I've attended this university, I've often been displeased with how "the Lister vote" likely decides the SU elections. But when it comes down to it, their culture is one of engagement. Good for them. It's frankly all too rare among the larger population. The SU can't mobilize the rest of us like Lister can its residents. The university knew it would face some strong resistance, so while it's no surprise it struck during the summer when resistance is on vacation, it really is disheartening. I've had a lot of opportunity to feel let down time and time again during my time at this institution, but this is one of the most brazen displays of bullshit I've had the displeasure of wading through.

President Samarasekara, given her recycled speeches of past years, will likely tell the first-years the value of student engagement when welcoming them. But it sure is a shame that this year, with the breaking of the most engaged student culture underway, it will ring less sincere than ever.

Ryan Bromsgrove

Editor-in-Chief



THE JOKE IS THAT THE OLYMPICS ARE ABOUT MONEY NOW.

ROSS VINCENT

Letters to the editor

FROM THE WEB

U of A made right choices with emergency alert system

("U of A must admit blunders with emergency alert system," by Ryan Bromsgrove, July 9)

This is ridiculous. They're investigating it, talking to multiple groups on campus who have a stake in emergency situations, and are building a picture of if they responded correctly.

"I would be quite happy to see the university send 10 messages later judged unnecessary for every one that turns out to be important than waste time."

Have you heard of the boy who cried wolf? Nobody cares about fire drills on campus already, they practically have to drag people out of their rooms when something actually happens. Plus, what are they going to do? Tell people to not go outside... at 2 AM? Wake up and piss off a ton of people who aren't on campus with their messages, rather than the tiny tiny population of people being talked to directly in HUB via the PA and door-to-door face time? Scare students into thinking it is a school shooting and that they're a target when it was known from the absolute beginning that it was a robbery? You know they'd be getting a ton of flak for waking up every student and staff member at the U of A early in the morning during the summer when the gunman was already gone and campus is a ghost town anyways.

Again, this is ridiculous. Their response was reasonable, but your post is... well, it was expected, but not

so untimely. When did you decide to stop being lazy and report on this story? Every single news outlet trawling campus to talk to students and staff asked about it, and decided it wasn't an issue they could talk about easily, but you decided to sink your teeth into the university and SU for a few cheap shots long after the fact. Lame. There's a lot more about this story you could be talking about, the people involved, or the responses by the university, UAPS, Safewalk, SU, EPS. You could talk about the vigil that was held, the "reclaiming the space" ceremony that happened in HUB, how proud we should be that our community banded together closer during the summer months instead of sitting around in fear or pointing fingers at each other for perceived failure.

No, Ryan, they shouldn't send messages all the time just to be safe. No, the University and SU aren't failing to ensure student safety. Finally, they may say they would've done things differently, but giving them crap for investigating and mediating over whether or not it was the wrong decision is just obtuse. You might have your opinion, but let them think and form theirs before you thrash them for being bad people.

"Joe"
VIA WEB

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Gateway doesn't know what it's doing

Unspoutingly you have a damynic staff of parsimodious ilicate reporters

whom you err in imageing as being highly recepticle. Let me act as your pretention to just far laxing tou are in this consumption. Your men ase not as deplorable as you are ape to think. They are nearly a lecherous menage of weo-begoing reprodroops.

Mr. H.N Gigg, esquire

OCTOBER 29, 1940

Western customs can seem a bit strange

Being from the southeast, I'd like to know a bit more about the customs out here

1) At dances, why do couples walk around in circles after a selection has been played? They get plenty of exercise walking around during the music. Surely they don't have to supplement more during the interval

2) At a "formal dance," do the men also dress formal or is it merely the women? Note that I am not refering to semi-formals

3) Does Friday's Gateway always come out on Saturday?

Perplexed

OCTOBER 24, 1947

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include name, program and year of study to be considered for publication.

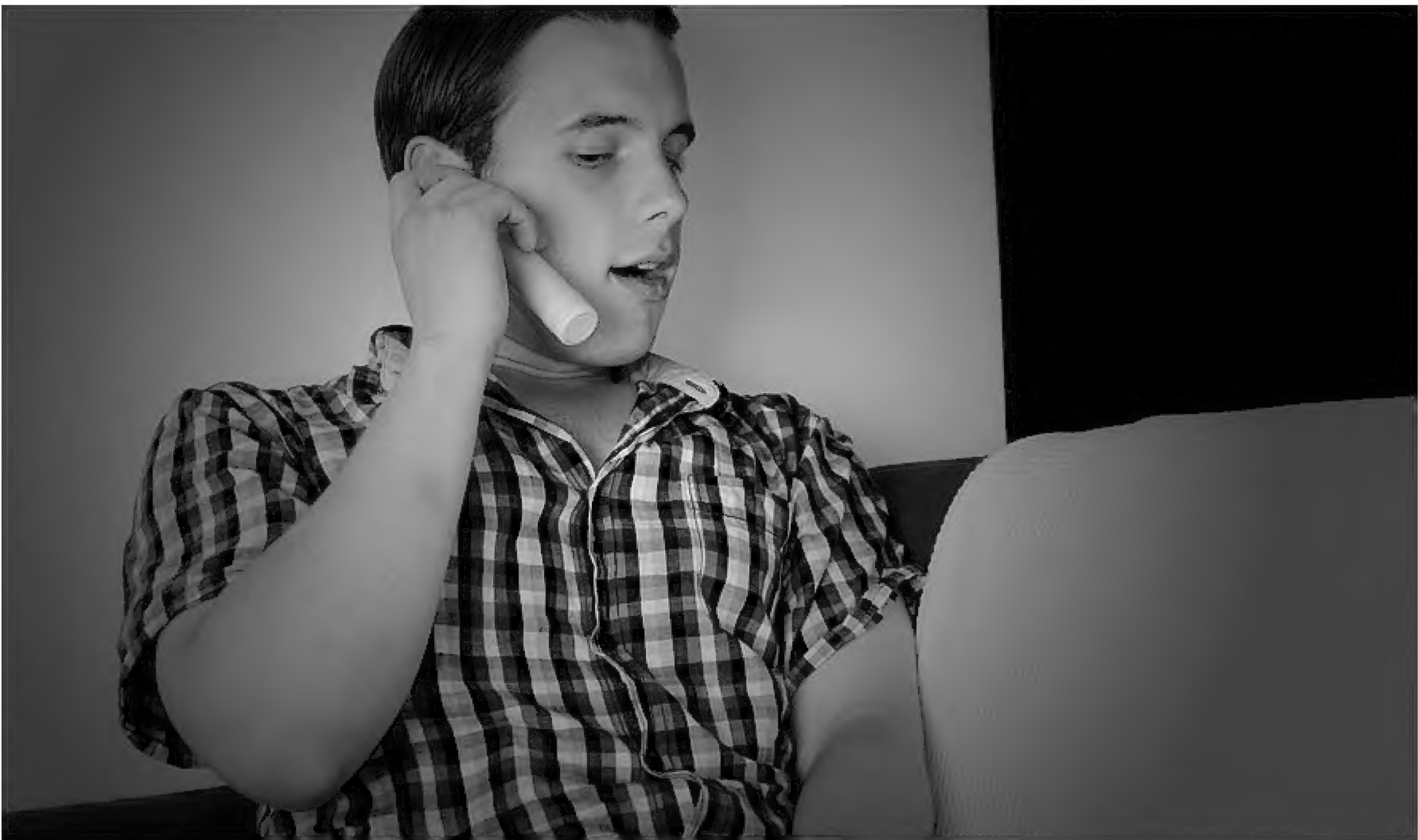


Quebec students have been protesting tuition hikes that would take them from being the province with the lowest tuition, to being the province with the still lowest tuition. Freedom fighters, or ass of the year?

gatewayopinion

MEETINGS WEDNESDAY AT 5 IN 3-04 SUB

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA



DAN MCKECHIE

We'd enjoy life more if inanimate objects could tell us what to do



Opinion Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY

A bar in Michigan has installed talking urinal cakes that urge people not to drink and drive. If science has come this far, *The Gateway* has a few more ideas for advice giving objects

Jonathan Faerber

If toilets can now talk, why not toiletries? You know, the shampoo bottle that rarely gets touched, that body soap you pick up only every other day — pretty much everything hygiene-related should insult you on a regular basis — all under the guise of friendly “advice,” of course. Sort of like your parents used to. Or still do.

So when you're back from a wild night out, about to crash, your bathroom items will be able to call after you: “Hey, where do you think you're going son? Come back here and clean yourself up. You're a disgusting mess. No, that's all right, I don't need to hear the details, I don't want to.”

It doesn't end there, of course. You'll be taking a shower, wanting to be left alone, but your face wash will insist on yelling in, well, your face, “Yo! Bro, you need help. Desperately. When's the last time you shaved? Yep, that's what I thought. Get yourself together dude, and start doing something about your appearance. It's no wonder you don't have a life.”

At which point you should probably reconsider your product — except that once one talks, all brands will compete for commercial conversations on the shelf. Or maybe that's just you hallucinating. In which case you should look into talking pill bottles.

Scott Fenwick

What every computer should have is a very loud voice warning users when they are about to send a “reply-all” email. The reply-all button found on email programs is abused much more frequently than it's actually used properly.

In fact, using that button is rarely necessary, save for the time when something's getting co-ordinated. In most other instances, it's used by people who either aren't paying attention or don't know

how to use email. Take for example federal immigration minister Jason Kenney. In doing a reply-all to an email sent to all Alberta Conservative MPs and their assistants, he called Alberta Deputy Premier Thomas Lukaszuk a “complete and utter asshole.” Since Kenney responded to the initial email in exactly five minutes, he probably didn't notice that he sent his response to everyone.

Although that's a high-profile case, there are more mundane abuses of the reply-all button that lead people to look like idiots. At least once a month at my work, someone will reply-all to emails sent to the “All Edmonton Staff” mailing list. To save cringe-worthy moments like these, people need to realize that reply-all is the nuclear button of email, and needs to be treated with fear and respect.

Ravane Lawday

I'm an extremely forgetful person, and sometimes it has some pretty serious drawbacks. If you had to ask me what item I lose the most, it would be my keys, without question.

That's why, if I could have any one object communicate with me, I'd have my keys tell me where they are whenever I lose them. Well, more like I'd have them yell at me whenever I lose them.

My keychain is usually found in some random area of the house; a laundry pile, under the couch, in the freezer (yes, this actually happened). Most of the time, they go missing in a sound-proof area — hence the need for them to yell their location.

If, for some reason, this innovation comes to fruition, I'd probably save about an hour a week searching the house for my keychain. This is an hour I could spend doing things that are actually productive. If we can have talking urinal cakes, surely we can tap into the usefulness of keys.

Darcy Ropchan

Everybody wants to lose weight and get jacked but who has the time and motivation to go to the gym every day? Between sleeping all day and stuffing my face with junk food I certainly don't. That's why I would love to have some talking gym equipment and clothes.

Think about it, you're lounging around your house saying, “I'll go

to the gym a little later.” You keep saying this, but you know you'll never go. That's when a little automated voice from inside your gym bag says, “Hey fatso, you ain't getting any skinnier.” It might be mean and hurtful, but that's what you need to get motivated.

Your talking gym clothes can also help you when it comes to making healthy food choices. If you're about to chow down on some grease-soaked junk food your sweat pants could say, “Are you really eating another hamburger? I'm already stretched as far as I can go.”

These talking gym clothes might give a blow to your self-esteem, but it'll motivate you to work out harder and run that extra mile — making you healthy and giving you outer beauty, which is all that really matters.

Ryan Bromsgrove

Talking sex toys, people. Think about it. I mean really, think about it. You've seen the Fleshlight that comes in the shape of a mouth, right? Well what if while they aren't accepting your gargantuan penis, those rubbery lips are talking to you?

“Good morning, Ryan,” it would say to me as I wipe the sleep from my eyes. “Care for a little pick-me-up to start your day right?”

See normally I might be crawling out of bed, cursing the day for robbing me of comfortable dreamtime and lamenting that I have a job. The million things pushing their way into my mind would distract me from any possibility of morning masturbation. But if a perky, friendly voice greeted me with the possibility of having some me-time before I groggily stumble into the shower, fall over and go back to sleep? Well sir, I dare say it might just brighten my mood for the entire day.

“Why now that you mention it my darling,” I'd reply, “perhaps I do.”

The lips would curl up into a seductive smile. “I'm ready when you are,” they smoulder.

As a wonderful side-effect, of course, the technology developed to make this happen would benefit the field of robotics. No one's going to fund realistic lip movement as long as robots are the domain of nerds with labs. But tell people they can stick their dick in them? You'll get a \$10 billion research grant. Screw disease research, this should be funded by the government.

Hiding images of alleged killer will help no one

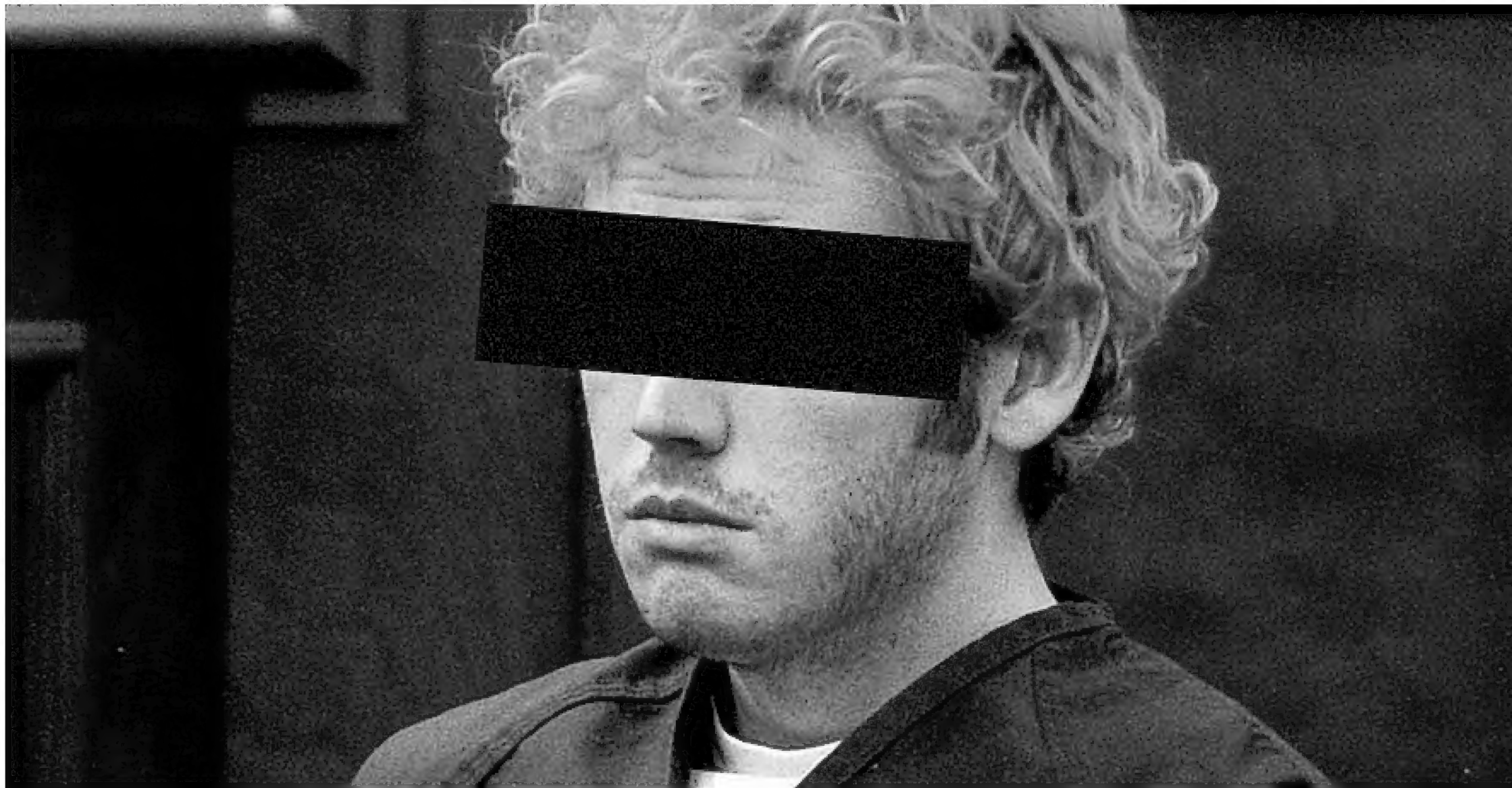


Darcy Ropchan
OPINION EDITOR

More than a week after James Holmes allegedly murdered 12 people and injured 58 others in a crowded Colorado movie theater, a myriad questions have been raised about how and why someone could do this — and what can be said and done to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again. Some suggest that limiting the news coverage and screen time that the alleged killer has received may take away some of the impact of his actions and deter potential copycats. But limiting coverage will do nothing to stop anyone from following this example.

Whether you show his picture or not, assuming he is convicted, James Holmes will be forever remembered for the Colorado shooting.

In the intense media circus following the shootings, videos and pictures of Holmes' face and bright red hair have been fixtures on a variety of newscasts and articles, making James Holmes an unfortunate household name. This raises the question of whether so much publicity should be given not only to Holmes but all perpetrators in situations like these. It's argued that not only does it give them a kind of twisted celebrity status, but it can inspire



THIS IMAGE HAS BEEN CENSORED Trying to pretend that offensive things don't exist won't solve any problems. SUPPLIED

admirers and copycats to try their own hand at murder. Some people like Tom Teves, father of one of the Aurora murder victims have gone so far as to say that Holmes' name and photo should not be mentioned or shown during newscasts.

Unless you've been personally affected by a tragedy like this, there's no way to understand what these victims and their families are going through. And there's no doubt that seeing pictures and videos of the person who allegedly murdered your family member or friend stirs up strong emotions. People like Tom Teves and others related to the shooting victims believe that by giving publicity to the killer, it could make the whole thing seem to the perpetrator like it was worth it.

Although there's absolutely no debate that the main focus should be on the victims and their families during this time, and they should never

be forgotten, completely ignoring a killer and who that person was will change nothing, and only serves to ignore something that is not going away. Whether you show his picture or not, if he is convicted, James Holmes will be forever remembered for the Colorado shooting. Instead of pretending he doesn't exist, it's important to understand who this person was and why he did what he did. He's at the center of all this and it's a news agency's job to report all sides of a story, regardless of how morbid it may be.

By giving Holmes all this infamy, some believe that other "copycat" killers will be inspired to make their own news. But if there are copycats out there, they're going to kill whether or not Holmes' face is on the news. If someone is at a point where they are willing to kill based on the fame it might bring them, they have deep problems. When it comes down to it,

unfortunately, it is nearly impossible to predict when or if someone will transition from "deep problems" to murderer.

The Aurora shooting and similar tragedies like Columbine, Virginia Tech and even the recent shooting at HUB Mall are events that affect entire communities and for this reason are worth discussing — regardless of whether or not giving the shooter fame is what he wanted. Confronting a tragedy is never easy, but trying to avoid something uncomfortable like photos or videos of a killer will not help anything.

These killers don't deserve the infamy they get, but it's an unfortunate side effect that comes from reporting on the story. And given that, instead of trying to hide something that someone finds offensive, it's better to confront it head on — to show that one person's horrible actions will not destroy an entire community.

the burlap sack

COMPILED BY **Darcy Ropchan**

If you regularly ride public transit, you're no stranger to the loathsome, slow moving, smoking bus driver. Which is why they're being shoved into the burlap sack.

In case you need a lesson, this is a driver who wastes everybody's precious time by walking and driving as slowly as they possibly can.

They take up even more of your precious minutes by standing outside the bus and lighting up a cigarette before they take off making sure that they don't leave until they absolutely have to.

I have no problem with someone enjoying a quick cigarette. It's one of life's simple pleasures. but when I'm running late for school or work I don't have time to sit around and wait for you to fill your lungs. I've got places to be, man.

As if that wasn't enough, they sure take their sweet time getting on the bus and fiddling with all the knobs and dials they have. How long could it possible take to change the sign on the front of the bus?

Just in case you weren't pissed off enough, some bus drivers like to wait and sit at each bus stop for more than two minutes — long after everyone has gotten on and off. Come on dude, no one is coming. Leave already.

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

SPORTS YOU ONLY WISH
YOU COULD PLAY:

Dog Surfing



Grab your board and your dog and catch a wave! Oh wait, we're in Edmonton.

gatewaysports

SPORTS MEETINGS THURSDAYS AT 4 PM IN 3-04 SUB

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/SPORTS

NEW HOME, SAME FIRE

EDMONTON'S RAPID FIRE THEATRE TAKES UP RESIDENCE AT THE CITADEL

words by Alana Willerton — photos by AmirAli Shorifi

The players of Rapid Fire Theatre Improv Company have never looked more like family than in the moments following their final Theatresports performance in the Varscona Theatre.

As the dozens of performers who make up the company gathered on stage, the group broke out into hugs — and even a few tears — as the people of Edmonton thanked them for their years of unstoppable laughs with one final standing ovation. It was a fitting tribute to the company, which has faithfully provided the city with smart and challenging improvisation for the last 31 years.

But now, RFT is marking the end of an era as they prepare to bid adieu to the theatre they've called home for more than two decades. In their first move since arriving at the Varscona Theatre in 1990, the company will be heading downtown this September to take over Zeidler Hall in the Citadel Theatre.

Amy Shostak, Artistic Director for RFT, says the move is difficult, but necessary. As one of six theatre companies currently sharing the space at The Varscona Theatre, there's little room for expansion for RFT, who have been performing to sold-out crowds every Friday and Saturday night. The Varscona will also be undergoing renovations soon, meaning the company could be left out in the cold if they don't find a new venue.

"With the (Varscona's) renovation and then with us expanding, the timing is right," Shostak says. "We're ready to move. We've grown out of our current home and it's time to get a new, bigger home."

Leaving the Varscona Theatre will undoubtedly be a bittersweet change for the players who grew up performing there, but the move to the Zeidler Stage will ultimately help the company begin those essential expansions, allowing them to double their current number of performances. RFT will be adding shows for workshop students and high school programming for the Northern Alberta Improv League on Thursday nights, as well as a second Friday night Theatresports program. While they've built their current audience around the idea of being a late night show, the move will see their Friday night Theatresports program times changing to 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., with Saturday's Chimprov program moving to 10 p.m.

While they stand to gain a lot from the move, with every major change comes risk. For RFT, the possibility of losing some of the loyal audience they've amassed over the years is a possible consequence that's all too real. While Shostak is first to admit this, she's



also hopeful RFT's long-standing reputation with Edmonton audiences will keep them afloat after the move.

"It's really scary to take a leap of faith and take something that is doing so good and uproot it and possibly not do well for a while — or ever," she says. "I think it might be a challenge, but I also think with time, it will happen. Our shows here at the Varscona didn't instantly sell out, either. It took time to get it going, and now I think we're in a good position to move somewhere and have some of our audience follow us."

A slow start to their move downtown wouldn't be the first time the company has had difficulty with attendance. Chris Craddock, who's been performing with RFT for the last 22 years, can remember when he and several other senior members of the company first debuted Chimprov, their Saturday night long-form improv show, to a less than stellar turnout.

"I remember when we first founded Chimprov and we had eight or nine people in the audience for like the first two years," he laughs. "For a long time no one was coming and we struggled with that show, but we soldiered on."

Years later, with Chrimprov now being performed to sold-out crowds on a weekly basis, it's easy for Craddock to look back on those times with a laugh. Still, he admits he's sentimental about the impending move of the company, the memory of the first time he took the stage with his fellow RFT players still fresh in his mind. Craddock knows the feeling is mutual for the many international guests the company has hosted at the Varscona with their annual improv festival, Improvaganza.

"I know that our guests (who have performed at) Improvaganza feel the same way about the Varscona," Craddock says. "A lot of them are from larger cities and perform in back rooms of taverns and restaurants, and for them to come and have a dedicated theatre space that fills up every night to see improv, it's a treat. I hope we can build up something similar at the

Citadel in the coming years."

The man in charge of building that is Ben Gorodetsky, the street team captain for the impending move. A relative newcomer to RFT having started performing with the company just two years ago, Gorodetsky is in charge of getting word of the move out to the public, all while leading a group of about 20 street team members comprised of RFT players, volunteers and tech.

The team has been busy since news of the company's transition to downtown first went public, staging eye-catching stunts like a "Boys of RFT Bikini Bike Wash," as well as huge water fight in the middle of Whyte Avenue. While the image of the company's male players dressed in bikini drag and washing bicycles sounds like it could be ridiculous, Gorodetsky says it fit with RFT's comedic style perfectly — while also achieving their purpose.

"The idea was to have a spectacle that was big and funny enough to make people stop, and then as soon as they stop, tell them all about our move," explains Gorodetsky. "They're just fun activities that represent the whimsical nature of our comedy shows."

Aside from flyers and handbills, the team has also been shelling out free tickets to their upcoming shows in September, hoping that one free show will lead return visits. As for upcoming events, Gorodetsky has it covered with a downtown skipping rope competition, an absurd tennis game in Churchill Square where everything is real except for the ball and a September bike ride across the river on a 29-seat bicycle from the

Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"If everything goes as planned, we're going to wave goodbye to our old home at the Varscona and bike across the High Level bridge and into downtown to our new home at the Citadel," says Gorodetsky. "It'll be this symbolic journey across the river on this hilariously oversized bike."

With less than two months to go before their debut on the Zeidler Stage, the public's response to these publicity stunts has been encouraging so far. While RFT is still by no means assured of a promising turnout come September, they remain cautiously optimistic that it won't take them long to get back on top. As Gordestsky points out, the driven and impassioned players that make up the RFT family may just be the best people suited for the challenge.

"It'll certainly be challenging in terms of adapting to change," he acknowledges. "But I don't think there's anyone better suited to adapting to change and making it work with what's at hand than improvisers."

“With the (Varscona’s) renovation and then with us expanding, the timing is right. We’re ready to move. We’ve grown out of our current home and it’s time to get a new, bigger home.”

~Amy Shostak
Artistic Director, Rapid Fire Theatre



Arts & Culture

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Volunteer
A&C meetings Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB.

social
intercourse

COMPILED BY Kate Black

Edmonton International
Fringe Theatre Festival

Thursday, August 16 - Sunday, August 26
Various Locations
Tickets at tixonthesquare.ca starting
Tuesday, August 7

For 31 years, The Fringe has been one of the most eclectic members of Edmonton’s festival season. From the immense variety of performers to the sheer unpredictability of the acts, The Fringe never fails to shake up the summer events calendar. Organizers don’t jury or censor artists’ work, so be prepared to see the good, the bad and the downright ugly of theatre from Edmonton and beyond.

Cirque du Soleil: Quidam

Wednesday, August 8 - Sunday, August 12
Rexall Place (11230 110 St.)
Starting at \$49.25 at ticketmaster.ca

It’s hard to describe Cirque du Soleil to someone who’s never experienced it. Encompassing live music, acrobatics, theatre and surreal artistic effects, Cirque can hardly be put on the same level of other circus acts. This summer, the company is touring its show Quidam, which celebrates the world of imagination and daydreams with all the acrobatic beauty Cirque du Soleil has become known for.

Brand New

with Cursive and An Horse
Thursday, August 9 at 7 p.m.
Edmonton Event Centre (8882 170 St.)
\$43.75 at ticketmaster.ca

Angsty teens everywhere are rejoicing at the news that Brand New isn’t gone for good. The Long Island rockers settled into a slight hiatus after the 2009 release of their fourth album *Daisy*, leaving fans unsure of when they would return. While they were rumoured to have returned to the studio earlier this year, a new album has yet to surface. In the meantime, be sure to catch a live performance of the band while you can, because who knows when they’ll be back again.

Edmonton Heritage
Festival

Saturday, August 4 - Monday, August 6
Hawrelak Park (10125 157 St.)
Free admission with food bank donation

With more than 85 cultures to experience, the Edmonton Heritage Festival is one of the only times you can travel around the world in an afternoon. Besides an incredible food selection, the Heritage Festival offers a unique opportunity to shop for crafts and clothing, watch live music and learn a little bit about an unfamiliar culture.

Cariwest 2012

Friday, August 10 - Sunday, August 12
Various Locations
Tickets starting at \$20 at Tix on the Square
(Sir Winston Churchill Square)

Still haven’t gotten your fill of culture this summer? Cariwest can change that. With vibrant Caribbean cuisine and music and dance, Cariwest transforms the concrete jungle of downtown Edmonton into a three-day tropical party. The weekend is full of lively events and with entertainment for all ages, Cariwest will bring a splash of colour to the hot and dry afternoons of August.



Royal Wood embraces life and love
honestly on *We Were Born To Glory*

MUSIC PREVIEW

Royal Wood

PRESENTED BY Edmonton Folk Music Festival

WHEN Performances on Friday, August 10 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, August 11 at 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, August 12 at 5:30 p.m.

WHERE Gallagher Park (10115 97A Ave.)

HOW MUCH Sold Out

Alana Willerton
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • @ALANAWILLERTON

Listening to Royal Wood’s latest album, *We Were Born To Glory*, it’s easy to see the Canadian pop artist is in a much different headspace than on his 2010 album *The Waiting*. Known as a balladeer who favours darker pop sounds, Wood’s latest channels an entirely different sort of energy. Distinctly up-tempo with soaring melodies, the new album embraces the bigger picture, capturing a confidence and honesty we haven’t seen from Wood before. Tackling heady topics like discovering your own place in the universe and deciding what we’re meant to do with our lives, the album is philosophically driven by a newfound love for life. As the album title suggests, Wood believes we’re all born to a higher purpose, something he feels he’s achieved with his latest album. “These are the big questions and I don’t think there is the one answer — I think the answer is different for everyone,” says Wood. “Where I’m at in my life right now, I’m figuring out that this really is my place and that I don’t need to deviate from my path.”

No longer flowering his lyrics with excessive poetry and imagery like he has in the past, the honesty of Wood’s words stands out this time around. The lead single “Not Giving Up” displays the persistence of a man who knows how bumpy the road to love can be, while sexually charged songs like “I Want Your Love” reflect a man who has comfortably grown into not only his own skin, but also his music.

“(In your) twenties, you’re just figuring out who you are and everything’s so blurry... You’re more experiencing as opposed to reflecting. Now that I’m in my thirties, I’m reflecting and realizing that I’m so exactly where I always wanted to be. It’s just kind of a joyous existence, to be honest.”

ROYAL WOOD
SINGER

“It really reflects a certain period of my life,” Wood muses. “It’s far more energetic, and I’d say hopeful-sounding, than anything I’ve made before. I just feel far more grounded and confident in my life now. Despite whatever I might be dealing with, I find there’s always hope. I don’t feel like a cynic, and I think I was in my twenties.” While there’s no doubt his twenties have been good to him — 2008 saw him named iTunes’ Songwriter of the Year, while the success of *The Waiting* earned him a Juno Award nomination in 2011 for Songwriter

of the Year — *We Were Born To Glory* brings with it every assurance that things will only continue to get better in the next decade of Wood’s life. Reflecting on the album, positivity radiates from Woods’ voice as he contemplates the personal revelations that have brought him to this point. Now happily married to Canadian songstress Sarah Slean and well into a flourishing music career, he describes years of his life that, while successful, were often clouded by a closed-off persona. The difference between then and now, says Wood, is night and day. “(In your) twenties, you’re just figuring out who you are and everything’s so blurry. You’re always moving and everything is kind of a blur, really. You’re more experiencing as opposed to reflecting,” Wood says. “Now that I’m in my thirties, I’m reflecting and realizing that I’m so exactly where I always wanted to be. It’s just kind of a joyous existence, to be honest.” As to whether his newfound attitude will carry on with him into his future years and albums, “ask me in two years,” is the only reply a chuckling Wood can give. While he’s hopeful his life will continue to be on this path in the years to come, he’s prepared for the possibility of change. For now, Wood is content to simply bask in the moment of his current satisfaction and success while he can, taking it in in all its glory. “Some artists lose a family member, a relationship falls apart, drug addiction — who knows? Right now, I can’t complain. Right now, I’m hopeful for the future and excited by it,” he says. “I’m loving every moment, even when they’re difficult to deal with. I’m still experiencing it and tackling it head on, which is a real first for me.”



flop culture

COMPILED BY **Alana Willerton**

Step Up film series

The film industry is no stranger to sequels and trilogies, but every once and a while they take things just a little too far. Every two years since 2006, the industry has religiously gifted us with yet another addition to the *Step Up* dance film series. With this month's release of the fourth installment, it's time we

put our foot down and say enough with the dance movies.

Now, I'll admit that the first film of the series, *Step Up*, was decent. Starring Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan, it was a cute if not predictable story about a bad boy from the streets who learns to dance. But then came *Step Up 2 the Streets*, *Step Up 3D* and recently *Step Up Revolution*. If the fact that they use numbers instead of words in the titles didn't tip you off, these subsequent lame dance movies have been less than stellar. Often starring dancers who've never even acted before, the plotlines are

repetitive and uninteresting. The films serve mainly as a platform to show off lengthy dance numbers, which would be fine if this weren't the fourth time we were seeing them.

In general, I don't have a problem with dance movies — all I ask is they come with a somewhat original storyline and half decent acting. Sadly, even that seems to be too much to ask nowadays. It's unfortunate that a series that probably should have stopped after one film continues to put out mediocre repeats year after year.

ALBUM REVIEW



Angus Stone *Broken Brights*

Nettwerk Records
angusstone.com

Kate Black

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ BLAHBLAHBLACK

After achieving mainstream success with their singles "And the Boys" and "Big Jet Plane," Australian sibling duo Angus & Julia Stone are stepping away from the family business with their own solo acts. While Julia ventured into a realm of pop vibrancy in her solo debut earlier this year, Angus Stone sticks to his guns in his second solo record, *Broken Brights*. This time, he has his style down to a science, fine-tuning the blues-rock

dynamic that occasionally surfaces in his work with Julia.

Similar to the way a sepia tone unites the pictures in an old photo album, the tracks on *Broken Brights* melt together under an easy-going, hazy aura. While the album rarely rises above a patio-chill level of excitement, it's by no means sparse. Instrument pairings not often heard from the duo — like the pan flute and banjo — add much-needed depth, drawing the listener into

an imaginative musical backcountry of dry summer heat and long stretches of highway.

Stone's voice has a hypnotic appeal that seduces attention to his careful lyricism. Although he spends most of the album reflecting on the familiar topics of love and loss, he does so with simple yet effective nostalgia. He demonstrates this effect clearly in the title track, where his reference to a time "when we were young" is repeated throughout the chorus, sharing a haunting desire to return to the hedonism of youth.

While it's not a far cry from Stone's previous work, this album leaves little more to be desired from new listeners and diehard fans alike. Cohesive and mellow in scope, *Broken Brights* is the perfect complement to a lazy summer afternoon on the deck.

ALBUM REVIEW



Purity Ring *Shrines*

Last Gang Records
purityringsongs.com

Ryan Stephens

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ @STEPHENSJRYAN

Over the past year, Purity Ring has proved to be a band that can do a lot with very little. Having amassed a fervent following with the release of only a handful of songs, the Edmonton-forged duo of Megan James and Corin Roddick have reached an unlikely level of acclaim that often takes years to achieve. And with their debut full-length *Shrines*, Purity Ring proves their rapid-fire success has been anything but a fluke.

Originally uploading their first song "Ungirthed" to the internet in

January 2011, the song rapidly established Purity Ring's sound as a seamless mix of synthpop, hip hop and glitch with a curious combination of lyrics that seem to latch on to the listener's inner child. James' words play into the same sentimentalities and fears as the nursery rhymes of childhood, with her airy vocals playing dual roles of the protector and, when distorted by Roddick's production, the adversary.

While the melodies and lyrics often lean towards the macabre,

Shrines still manages to evoke feelings of warmth. When James invites listeners to "Cut open my sternum and pull my little ribs around you" in standout track "Finesshrines," one can't help but oblige in the grotesquerie. It's somehow easy to envision cuddling up inside the chest cavity next to her heart, for which Roddick provides the comforting beat.

As artists attempting to create a dense and complex musical landscape, the band thankfully never goes beyond their bounds. While some musicians create texture by adding new instruments or multiple vocalists, Purity Ring instead opts to display the capabilities of two musicians and minimal equipment. Utilizing the complexities of a single voice, Purity Ring creates a fulfilling and rewarding album containing discoveries to be unearthed with each subsequent listen.

fashion streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY **Alana Willerton**



Navneet Khinda
ARTS III

GATEWAY: Describe what you're wearing.

NAVNEET: I'm wearing a skirt from Zara, and it's my first time wearing it because I couldn't figure out how to wear it. This is a denim jacket that I got from H&M years ago that I love. One of my favorite accessories would be this watch from Fossil. And then just a black tank top and a cardigan.

GATEWAY: What's your favourite thing you have on?

NAVNEET: My favorite item that I'm wearing would be my denim jacket for sure.



Check out thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters for more photos.

Nolan's Batman trilogy peaks with gripping finale

FILM REVIEW

The Dark Knight Rises

WRITTEN BY Jonathan Nolan and Christopher Nolan

DIRECTED BY Christopher Nolan

STARRING Christian Bale, Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Marion Cotillard and Anne Hathaway

WHEN Now playing

Katelyn Hoffart
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @KATELYNHOFART

After the overwhelming success of *The Dark Knight*, many were left wondering how a successor could possibly live up to the seemingly insurmountable standards set by the overnight blockbuster hit. But after four years of building anticipation, *The Dark Knight Rises* has proven to be worth the wait, surpassing high expectations with all the drama, action and adventure that makes for an incredible film.

The film takes us to eight years after the sadistic Joker first held Gotham City in a web of terror in *The Dark Knight*. Once an eccentric socialite, Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) has since retreated from the world, confining himself to the walls of his manor. But as a new villain, Bane (Tom Hardy), emerges to terrorize the city, Wayne is forced to make his return as Batman, only to find himself even worse off than before. He must trust and rely on Catwoman (Anne Hathaway) and the Gotham police force in order save the city, all the while trying to save himself from a life destined to end in emptiness and misery.

An all-star lineup consisting of several main cast members from Nolan's last film, *Inception*, excels at embracing their new



roles and creating strong, well-developed characters in *The Dark Knight Rises*. Two of the more controversial casting decisions in the film centred around the addition of less popular characters like the latest villain, Bane, and Catwoman.

Anne Hathaway portrays the sly and sexy Selina Kyle/Catwoman, who becomes an essential ally to Gotham's resurrected hero Batman, despite having ulterior motives of her own. She proves to be just as capable and dangerous as the toughest of criminals, and the part is played with style and taste.

Tom Hardy fills the role of the newest villain, Bane. While not as memorable as Heath Ledger's Joker, viewers learn more about the man behind the mask and his malicious muscular outer shell as the film progresses. While his mask prevents him from revealing much emotion, his eerie speech style and intimidating physique create a dangerous

character that viewers will love to hate.

Along with the superb acting, another epic score by the talented composer Hans Zimmer enhances the drama with fresh new sounds complimented by familiar themes from Nolan's previous two Batman films. Chilling echoes, thunderous drums and the smooth yet sharp sound of a string orchestra make every heart-pounding moment even more intense.

Also true to the director's style is the prominent role that politics plays in the film. Bane, who has his own rules when it comes to dispensing justice against oppression and corruption in Gotham, causes the city to go from a time of structure and peace to anarchy and terrorism. The power dynamics of money as a tool for control becomes obsolete, and makes unpredictability a force in the film.

Bane plunges Gotham into a state of anarchy even greater than when the Joker seized

control in *The Dark Knight*, establishing a sense of hopelessness that creates huge obstacles for Batman, making the story all the more exciting. Fear, betrayal, truth and what it means to move on are essential elements in this film, and we go deeper than ever before into what it takes and what it means to be a hero.

Despite being nearly three hours long, the film will have you captivated until the very end with its clever and profound dialogue and intense action scenes. This movie is a refreshing shot of adrenaline to the film industry, and will undoubtedly be seen as movie of the summer, if not the movie of the year.

Ultimately, *The Dark Knight Rises* lives up to its name, and will have you rising from your theatre seat after the credits with a sense of catharsis, satisfied that this extraordinary film has ended the Batman trilogy with a more than gratifying conclusion.

"Goodbye my friend,
(I know you're gone, you said you're gone,
But I can still feel you're here)
It's not the end,
(Gotta keep it strong before the pain turns into fear)"
-SPICE GIRLS, "GOODBYE" (1998)

Like the fleeting era of '90s girl bands, another Gateway Arts & Culture editorship has come to an end. But just like those Spice Girls lyrics you can't forget, we'll be stuck in your head forever.

ARTS MEETINGS WEDNESDAYS AT 4PM IN 3-04 SUB

gatewayarts&culture

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/ARTS

COMIC BOOK CHARACTER STUDY

Iron Man

Pros: Brilliant industrialist and technocrat. Suit of powered armour enabling flight and advanced weaponry.

Cons: He reeeeaally likes his booze.

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online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/COMICS

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Volunteer

Sports meetings Thursdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!



SUPPLIED

Winning history attracts local recruits to Bears

Golden Bears recruit Edmontonians Rhett Rachinski and Brennan Yadowski from the WHL after strong seasons in Edmonton and Everett

BEARS HOCKEY**Andrew Jeffrey**

SPORTS EDITOR ■ @ANDREW_JEFFREY

The city of Edmonton is providing the Golden Bears' two most noteworthy hockey recruits heading into the 2012-13 season this fall.

Both left winger Rhett Rachinski and defenceman Brennan Yadowski, of the Western Hockey League's Edmonton Oil Kings and Everett Silvertips respectively chose to come to the University of Alberta for this fall. Rachinski is coming off a berth in the Memorial Cup tournament earlier this year while Yadowski was an anchor on a defence that allowed the fewest goals against in the WHL last season. Both players are

Edmontonians who grew up watching successful Bears teams.

"The U of A has always been number one on my list," Yadowski said. "I've lived here my whole life and there's this culture that they've built over the years. As far as I remember they've always been a winning team, and that's what I want to be a part of."

Yadowski turned down offers from a number of other CIS schools, as well as a contract offer from Colorado of the East Coast Hockey League that he briefly played in earlier this year. He was holding out for the U of A while the Golden Bears sorted out their coaching situation and hired Ian Herbers.

Rachinski also received offers from other CIS schools, and his decision

came down to a choice between the U of A and McGill. However, after Rachinski spoke with Herbers about what to expect from the U of A in the new season, his decision tipped in favour of the U of A.

"The U of A's ability to get a coach of his quality played into my decision, and we just talked about how he's big on player development and if guys still want to pursue a pro contract, whether it's in the American League or Europe," Rachinski said. "You want the coaching that's going to get you there, and I really think the U of A has that."

The hiring of Herbers, a former American Hockey League head coach, highlighted this winning culture, a strong selling point for both Yadowski and Rachinski.

Both players also fall in line with Herbers' vision for the Golden Bears this fall.

"They've got some pretty skilled guys up front, and where I see myself is — especially in my first year — more of what I've been playing with the Kings as more of a defence-first player right off the bat," Rachinski said. "I feel that's the role that I have developed into and am successful at. It sounds like the team is needing to fill a void as far as that position is concerned. Obviously, I want to keep working on the offensive side of my game, but being a defensive specialist is something that sets me apart."

As is common with players coming to CIS from the WHL, both Rachinski and Yadowski are aware

they must get used to the differences in schedule and the change in atmosphere that comes with the transition. With two games a week rather than the three or four they're used to, the CIS regular season atmosphere creates a do-or-die, must-win feeling more consistently than the leagues the new Bears recruits came from.

"I'm still just as competitive as I had gone to play in the east coast," Yadowski said.

"It's just as competitive in CIS, if not more, because you're not playing as many games. There's more of a friendly aspect out there because guys know other players on their team a little bit better, but it's still just as intense — and that's what hockey is all about."

Bears to compete against American teams in Battle of the Border



MATT HIRJI

BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Battle of the Border Tournament

August 7-12

University of Calgary

Andrew Jeffrey

SPORTS EDITOR ■ @ANDREW_JEFFREY

The University of Alberta Golden Bears' basketball team's monotony of summer prep work and training for the upcoming season will take a break in early August for the annual Battle of the Borders tournament.

The six-day event is set for August 7-12 at the University of Calgary. There, the host U of C team, the U of A and Calgary's Mount Royal university will each play a game against NCAA Division 1 schools, the University of Wyoming Cowboys and the Montana State University Bobcats.

U of A head coach Barnaby Craddock isn't concerned with the team's record in the tournament, as he still has yet to even practice with the team. But he sees other benefits the tournament offers to the Golden Bears, being an exciting week for players during their months of training.

"It's our goal to compete for a national championship in March, and the results of these games don't have a lot to do with that," Craddock said.

"It's more of a chance for us where it's exciting to play D1 teams, it's nice publicity and everyone's interested in how CIS programs compete compared to D1 programs in the states. It's nice to go up against those guys, but as far as our preparation for the end of the year and competing for a national championship, it's a different test."

The comparison between the CIS and NCAA programs is often the main draw for the Battle of the Borders. NCAA is widely regarded to have the best collegiate basketball and often gets more attention — particularly with the March Madness tournament — than CIS basketball. In last year's tournament, the NCAA schools went 4-0 against CIS schools.

"It's always very situational. A lot of the time you can be losing by 30 or 40 points, but at the same time CIS programs beat NCAA division one programs occasionally. You see all sorts of scenarios occur, and it's the same situation for the American teams," Craddock said.

"These aren't the most important

games for their seasons. They won't start their real training until September and October, so for them it's a chance to get to see their incoming freshmen in redshirts, have their whole roster play and the international trip and experience involved with it. For all of the programs it's an exhibition game."

The performance of the other CIS teams could potentially be interesting for the Golden Bears. This will be their first glimpse of this year's U of C Dinos and the Mount Royal University Cougars, entering their first season in CIS basketball this fall.

However, a lot about both the Golden Bears and their provincial rivals could change in the two months before the CIS season begins.

"We won't put a lot of stock in these pre-season games for our performance or the other team's performance," Craddock said.

"We're never stepping on the court where we're not competing or giving 100 per cent, but at the same time we'll have had a minimal amount of practice time going into the games. It's more of a chance to see our guys get to play with each other, as well as rewarding the guys on our team and letting them compete against a high level of competition."

COMIC BOOK CHARACTER STUDY

The Joker

Pros: Perennial nemesis of Batman, a brilliant homicidal psychopath who maims, torments and kills for his own amusement.

Cons: All of the following are canonical:



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SUPPLIED

Olympic
Preview

COMPILED BY Andrew Jeffrey

The Canada West conference of CIS will see 23 of its current and former student-athletes compete for Canada or the United States. Of those 23 athletes, the University of Alberta has three as well as one other former student representing the U of A in their bid for gold.

FREESTYLE WRESTLING

Currently assistant coach with the Pandas wrestling team, USA wrestler Ali Bernard is the lone Canada West alumnus to compete for a country besides Canada. Bernard will wrestle in the women's 72 kg weight division of freestyle wrestling in her second trip to the Olympic Games.

The 26-year old wrestler visited Beijing four years ago where she finished fourth in her weight class, after losing a chance for bronze to Japan's Kyoko Hamaguchi.

Bernard was also initially eliminated from Olympic qualification for the 2012 Games after losing to Stephany Lee in the finals of Olympic trials. However, Lee later tested positive for marijuana for the second time in her career, resulting in a one-year suspension and forfeiture of all her honours and medals since 2009.

Competing in the same weight class as Bernard will be former University of Calgary wrestler Leah Callahan, bringing the schools' provincial rivalry to its biggest possible stage. With her bronze medal in last year's world championships, Bernard is a strong contender to medal in London, but her biggest competition will be Beijing's silver and

bronze medalists from Bulgaria and Japan respectively, returning to repeat their past success.

The entire run from qualification round to the finals for the 72 kg weight division runs August 9.

TRIATHLON

As one of the CanWest athletes with the best chance to win a medal this year, 23-year old former U of A runner Paula Findlay will compete in the triathlon.

Before a hip injury took her out of competition last year, Findlay was the top-ranked athlete in the world according to the International Triathlon Union, after winning the first three ITU World Championship Series events of 2011.

The former cross country, swimming and track athlete and 2007 Canada West athlete of the year for the Pandas left the U of A in 2010 to focus on Olympic training. She'll have to compete in 1500 metres of swimming, 40 kilometres of biking and a 10,000 metre run.

Canada's biggest competition will likely come from Great Britain's Helen Jenkins, the 2008 and 2011 world champion who won the Olympic test event on the course that will be used in London.

Findlay will attempt to be the first woman to win an Olympic medal in the triathlon when the event runs Saturday, August 4, beginning at 2 a.m. MST.

TRACK CYCLING

Former Pandas cross-country runner Tara Whitten turned to cycling in 2005 and has now earned an Olympic berth because of the move.

Like Findlay, the 32-year old Whitten left the U of A in 2010

to focus on training for the Olympics, and since then she's become the world champion in track cycling in consecutive years 2010 and 2011. The women's omnium is a multiple race event that will make its Olympic debut this year, and happens to be Whitten's specialty where she won two world championships. She will also be Canada's captain in the team cycling event.

Canada hasn't won a gold medal in track cycling since Lori-Ann Muenzer won gold in the women's sprint in 2004. Whitten will try to change that in the women's omnium, running from August 6 to 7, and in the women's team pursuit, holding its qualifying round on August 3 and its finals on August 4.

SHOOTING

While she never competed in CIS athletics as a U of A student, first-time Olympian Dorothy Ludwig graduated from Augustana with a Bachelor of Arts in Drama.

Ludwig competed for Canada in the women's 10 metre air pistol shooting competition this year. Ludwig finished 34 and did not qualify for the finals.

In the past, the 33-year old has won five national championships. In international competition, Ludwig won an individual silver medal and team gold medal at the 2002. Eight years later she returned to the Commonwealth games to win a bronze medal in pairs shooting with her sister Lynda Kiejko.

Last year, Ludwig won the gold medal for Canada at the Pan-American Games to qualify for the London Games this year. Her father, Bill Hare competed in pistol shooting at the 1964, '68 and '72 Olympic Games.

The competition ran on July 29.

Is notoriously victorious Pistorious' success glorious?

Disabled athlete's Olympic berth could be a regrettable decision | Pistorious' Olympic qualification should be admired, not criticized



**Jonathan
Faerber**
POINT

Sometimes, sports surprise us. Exceptions, in fact, are exactly what make the entire enterprise worthwhile. In other words, athletes accomplish exceptional things — it's why we watch them. And the more exceptional the feat, the more reason we have to support them.

Take Oscar Pistorious. In just a few days, the "blade runner" will be competing in the Olympics against the world's best runners. If he wins, he'll make history as the world's fastest man over 400 metres — and without legs, at that.

But unfortunately, this history might be remembered more for cynical controversy than Pistorious' astounding achievement of becoming the first disabled Olympian. Ever. Although he's got much of the world cheering him on for the last decade, Pistorious — get this — actually has critics. Furthermore, his critics argue he has an unfair advantage over everybody else precisely because he has no legs.

Yes, you read that right — Pistorious is quickly becoming known as yet another athlete who cheats in the Olympics. This is because his "legs" are an alleged energy-saving mechanical marvel of prosthetic technology.

As cool as Cheetah Flex-Foot carbon fibre transtibial blades may sound, in the hype over the specifics of how well the technology works, it's easy to overlook the fact that they're just that: technology.

We shouldn't be amazed, in other words, by Pistorious' artificial limbs; rather, we should be awed that an individual who lost legs when he should have been learning how to walk can now use carbon blades to win races.

Indeed, Pistorious has overcome a lifetime of obstacles and disadvantages just to call himself an athlete, and a barrage of criticism, legal roadblocks and outright ableism just to call himself an Olympian.

It would be wrong to deny him all that simply because he happened to be born handicapped without either fibula, necessitating the very artificial legs that propelled him to the compete in this year's Summer Olympic Games.

After all, it's not as if Pistorious is the only athlete in the world with access to the best that science has to offer those missing limbs. He is, however, by far the fastest runner on this technology.

And his speed is not a product of carbon blades, but instead, the outcome of incredible optimism and athleticism. Unwarranted obsession over artificial limbs is as incredible as it is irrelevant to Pistorious' actual achievements. As he himself has put it: "You're not disabled by the disabilities you have; you are able by the abilities you have."

Just like the other Olympic athletes he will be competing against, Pistorious deserves nothing less than our admiration, respect and support.

So if and when he wins again, we should join the world in cheering on an athlete who propels himself across the finish line on the basis of incredible willpower and a lifetime of training, rather than focusing on what, to almost everyone but Pistorious, are but two pieces of lifeless, useless appendages.



**Andrew
Jeffrey**
COUNTERPOINT

There may not be an individual story at this year's Olympic games that's more inspirational than Oscar Pistorious', but in regards to the controversy surrounding his qualification, sometimes the best decision isn't always the kind one.

To some, denying Pistorious his Olympic berth seems like a terrible choice after all the hardship he's endured to compete in the 400 metre race in London.

He's already overcome so much, and as a man who had both legs amputated at 11 months of age, later learning to run on artificial legs. But now he's rewarded with being stopped by controversy about the fairness of his dream in the first place?

It honestly doesn't seem fair, but disqualifying Pistorious is likely the best decision.

It's not because Pistorious himself has an advantage over the other runners in the 400 metres. Scientists have found insufficient evidence that his artificial legs give the South African runner an advantage, and his personal best times aren't close enough to the world leaders to give him a realistic chance of winning a medal anyway.

One report found the legs gave Pistorious enhanced sprint running speeds by 15 to 30 per cent, while other scientists have argued Pistorious still fatigues like any other runner, and the lack of power in his artificial legs counteract any other potential advantage.

What's worse is the strange light that this

turn of events casts on the Paralympics. While no one can deny that in terms of global public attention, the Paralympics aren't followed nearly as closely as the Olympics, they're not meant to be a lesser competition in prestige or difficulty.

Pistorious was a champion Paralympian at both the 2004 and 2008 Games. The move to London's Olympic Games in 2012 makes it seem as though the Paralympics aren't the pinnacle in sports that it should be, as if it's a minor league for athletes who would rather compete in the Olympics.

This raises the question that if Pistorious is moving from the Paralympics to the Olympics, should we expect all Paralympic champions to do the same? Should Paralympians who don't make that jump be considered not as significant as the ones who do? And is it fair for Pistorious to compete in both the Paralympics and Olympics this year, as he's planning to do?

While the Blade Runner's legs don't give him a significant advantage over his competition, realistically, advances in technology will likely lead to artificial legs that fix the shortcomings Pistorious encounters, offering a real advantage. With Pistorious' involvement this year, a precedent has been set that future athletes could take advantage of to enter the Olympics unfairly.

It's of course impossible to say for certain whether that will happen, but the possibility should be considered.

At the very least, new Olympic regulations should be put in place to prevent a turn of events like this damaging the future parity of the Games. However, it would be foolish to solely focus on Pistorious' feel-good story without thinking about what it means for the Olympic Games.

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COMICS

PANEL SHOW by Ross Vincent



PHOTO OF THE (SEMI) MONTH



EXIT STAGE RIGHT The performers from the Rapid Fire Theatre improv group celebrate their last show in their longtime digs at the Varscona Theatre. AMIRALI SHARIFI